

P-401/CP-89-951 ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Darrel L. Peterson
Cynthia A. Kitlinski
Dee Knaak
Norma McKanna
Patrice M. Vick

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for
Extended Area Service From the
Hokah Exchange to the LaCrosse,
Wisconsin Calling Area

ISSUE DATE: February 27, 1991

DOCKET NO. P-401/CP-89-951

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On October 24, 1989, subscribers in the Hokah exchange of Ace Telephone Association (Ace) filed a petition for Extended Area Service (EAS) to the LaCrosse, Wisconsin calling area. The LaCrosse calling area is served by Century Telephone Company.

Between that date and September 21, 1990, Ace submitted cost information; the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (WPSC) established a cost methodology for Century Telephone's cost studies; the Minnesota Legislature passed new legislation regarding EAS; and Century Telephone submitted cost studies to the WPSC.

On September 21, 1990, the Commission issued its ORDER REQUIRING COST STUDIES AND PROPOSED RATES AND ESTABLISHING A COMMENT PERIOD in this matter. The Order granted Ace until November 20, 1990 to file cost studies and proposed rates that complied with the requirements of the new EAS legislation, Minn. Stat. § 237.161 (1990). The Order also granted the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) 45 days from the date of Ace's filing to file its comments regarding Ace's cost study and proposed rates.

On December 7, 1990, Ace filed the required information.

On January 22, 1991, the Department requested a 60-day extension for filing its comments.

On February 12, 1991, the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

In support of its request for additional time to file its comments regarding Ace's cost study and proposed rates, the Department stated that due to the legislative deadline imposed in the new EAS legislation and the work associated with dockets which fall under this deadline it has been unable to begin the discovery process for the Hokah docket. A 60-day time extension would allow the Department to provide the Commission with a more valuable report than it could produce at this time.

The Commission finds that the Department's request for an extension of time is reasonable and should be granted. The reasons for the Department's request are sound. No party has opposed the extension. Neither the public interest nor any party's interests will be prejudiced by the delay. The Commission will grant the requested extension.

ORDER

1. The Department of Public Service is granted a sixty (60) day extension from the date of this Order to file its report regarding the companies' cost studies and proposed EAS rates.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)